

*Eucosma pauperana* (Duponchel, 1843)  
(Lep.: Tortricidae) Recorded in Britain  
after nearly Fifty Years

By A. M. EMMET\*

On the 5th May, 1978, a specimen of *Eucosma pauperana* came to the light-trap operated by Mr. J. L. Fenn at his home in Hockwold, near Thetford, Norfolk. This was not only a new county record but also, apparently, the first specimen to be taken in Britain for 47 years. It was all the more remarkable since the foodplant, dog-rose (*Rosa canina*), does not grow in the vicinity. Mr. Fenn reported his capture to the president of the British Entomological & Natural History Society, who passed the news on at the next meeting of the Society; however, by what turned out to be a fortunate misreading of Mr. Fenn's letter, he stated that the capture had been made at Fleam Dyke, Cambridgeshire.

Accordingly, on the 14th May my wife and I, accompanied by Messrs. E. S. Bradford and R. W. J. Uffen, visited Fleam Dyke at about 6.00 p.m., and my wife netted a specimen, the only one to be seen. Another visit was made on the 17th May and a third on the 18th, when we were accompanied by the Rev. D. J. L. Agassiz; on both occasions a single specimen was netted. All three moths were taken flying freely between 6.00 and 6.30 p.m. BST. April is the usual month for the insect and even in a late year such as 1978, these specimens must have been at the end of their season.

The first British record of *E. pauperana* appears to have been from Darenth Wood, Kent in 1854. This was still the only locality known to Stainton (1859).

In the 1860s it was found, not uncommonly, by W. R. Jeffrey at Saffron Walden, Essex; W. Warren, then at Cambridge, and other contemporary entomologists used to visit Jeffrey and collect it in his company. Specimens from Saffron Walden are in various collections, including that of L. T. Ford in the British Museum (Natural History).

Round about 1880 it was discovered at Box Hill, Surrey, and used to be taken there regularly, sometimes in numbers, until 1914 (the late H. C. Huggins, pers. comm.).

Also in the 1880s, it was taken freely at Bidston Hill, Cheshire by J. B. Hodgkinson and C. S. Gregson. The former also recorded it from Preston, Lancashire, and Joseph Chappell captured it on Chat Moss, another Lancashire locality.

Meyrick (1928) records it from Berkshire, but I have not been able to trace particulars; the capture was evidently made after the publication of the Victorian County History for that county (1906).

In 1930 and 1931, G. I. Crawford, then an undergraduate at Cambridge University, found it at Fleam Dyke. These proved to be the last specimens to be taken until 1978. The late W. S. Gilles and H. C. Huggins worked the Dyke for it in 1935, 1936 and 1937 without success. In about 1970, the British Entomological & Natural History Society held a field

meeting there expressly to look for it, but also drew a blank. The locality being quite near my home, I have been there in most recent years but never saw *E. pauperana* until 1978; nor have I been able to rediscover it at Saffron Walden. It is probable that the insect has persisted at very low density in its old haunts and possibly the records for 1978 mark the start of an improvement in its numbers.

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## Notes and Observations

**EUPHYDRYAS AURINIA ROTT. — DISAPPEARANCE FROM MONMOUTHSHIRE.** — Reading Dr. C. J. Luckens' recent interesting notes on *Euphydryas aurinia* Rott. in Britain (1978, *Ent. Rec.*, 90: 108-112) prompts me to put on record the fate of this species in Monmouthshire where, over the years, I have known four separate colonies.

Fifty-two years ago the Marsh Fritillary was well-established at a spot only several hundred yards from the site of the new, recently-opened Gwent County Hall at Croesyceiliog, a village now absorbed into the new town of Cwmbran. This colony flourished in a boggy, lightly-wooded area but eventually succumbed to sporadic housing development prior to the 1939-45 war.

The other colonies known to me were all in the eastern part of the county. Near Wolvesnewton the butterfly flew in the moist open glades of a mixed deciduous wood and was fairly numerous in 1951. However, clearance of the woodland and replanting with conifers by the local landowner resulted in the disappearance of this colony shortly after that date.

At Pontysaeson in the Tintern area, in a small wooded valley where I had recorded 35 species of butterflies, including 6 fritillaries, there was a very strong and flourishing colony of *aurinia* which I had kept under observation for some 15 years until its destruction about 1969-70. In 1967 it was possible to see scores of these butterflies in flight at one time. It succumbed to forestry activities. This time it was spraying of the undergrowth with toxic herbicides which delivered the coup de grâce by destroying its foodplant *Scabiosa succisa* L. — and for that matter most other plants. Eyebright (*Euphrasia* sp.) grew along the nearby woodland track and here one could find the larvae of *Perizoma blandiata blandiata* (D. & S.),